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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/046,755

Examiner

Paul A. Baker

Applicant(s)

SHOJI, HARUO

Art Unit

2188

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 28 March 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5 and 7-14.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Rustan Hill on 13 June 2005. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 7, last line, amend as follows: "device functions as a desired boot block type[.]—, wherein the sector address inputted may address any one of the plurality of sectors in the memory device.—"

Claim 10, last line, amend as follows: "same boot block type[.]—, wherein the sector address inputted may address any one of the plurality of sectors in the memory device.—"

Claim 14, last line, amend as follows: "semiconductor memory device functions as a desired boot block type[.]--, wherein the sector address inputted may address any one of the plurality of sectors in the memory device.—"

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In regards to independent claims 7, 10 and 14, none of the prior art of record discloses a boot block conversion circuit as described wherein the sector address inputted may address any one of the plurality of sectors in the memory device. McKee, U.S. Patent No. 6,598,157, represents the closest available record of art. McKee

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discloses a boot block conversion circuit which can map the boot sector of a memory device as either a top or bottom boot sector. McKee discloses that the boot sector is a special region and in the preferred embodiment conditionally inverts the address bits to the boot sector as disclosed in column 5 line 58 through column 6 line 4. An alternate embodiment conditional inverts the address of all memory locations as disclosed in column 6 lines 4-6, however the addresses are inverted in toto based on the first supplied address which points to the top or bottom memory address. McKee does not disclose that any sector of the plurality of sectors within the memory may be converted from one boot block type to the other. For this reason applicant's claims 7, 10 and 14 are found allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 8-9, 11-13 are found allowable as being dependent upon allowed claims 7 and 10.

Claims 1-5 are allowable over the prior art of record, the examiners reasons for allowance for these claims were provided in the previous office action.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul A. Baker whose telephone number is (571)272-4203. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10am-6:30pm.

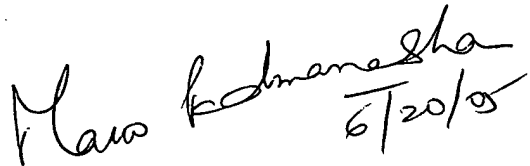
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mano Padmanabhan can be reached on (571)272-4210. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



PB



MANO PADMANABHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER